Eleven New Agencies Join SCEIS Family

The South Carolina Enterprise Information System (SCEIS) added 11 new State agencies to its family of "live" users on April 7, 2008, bringing the total of active SCEIS participants to 17. The date marked a new era for the finance and procurement departments of each agency, as all "back-office" functions will now be transacted through the new statewide integrated business system.

The first group of agencies, as well as the statewide procurement functions and the Vendor Master File, began using SCEIS during the fall of 2007. Additional agencies will be brought into the system every few months, until eventually more than 70 State agencies will transact their business through this single, unified system designed to standardize and consolidate the State's business processes.

Why is South Carolina doing this? What difference will it make? The short answer is that the system will save money while providing the State with a greater range of information resources. In addition, SCEIS will improve the way agencies conduct business and ultimately provide better service for the citizens of South Carolina. And that's just the beginning.

This SAP-based business system offers the most advanced, widely-integrated information management available. The State's business will be carried out in uniform ways throughout all agencies, offering economies of standardization, paper reduction, fewer repetitive data entries, better information management and much more.

What has SCEIS meant thus far to the employees directly affected by the change? To this point, the project has meant an increased amount of work as data systems and their staffs prepared for the "go-live" stage. Each separate business activity had to be inventoried and described in detail, while new "process flows" were developed to meet the needs of individual State agencies. The SAP software at the heart of the system is far from an easy, out-of-the-box solution. SAP is a powerful tool for business management, but part of its power is that it is uniquely configured for each client – in this case the State of South Carolina.

Once the development work is completed, end users must then receive intensive training in the weeks preceding the agency implementation.

As additional agencies come on board, SCEIS will offer new and enhanced information for agency users, managers, the Legislature and other bodies tasked with oversight. Most importantly, the system will provide better service for the people of South Carolina.

The next group of agencies scheduled to implement SCEIS will "go live" in late 2008. After that, SCEIS will add human resources and payroll functionalities to its offerings, making it an even richer tool for business management.

For additional information regarding this innovative system, please visit the SCEIS Web site.